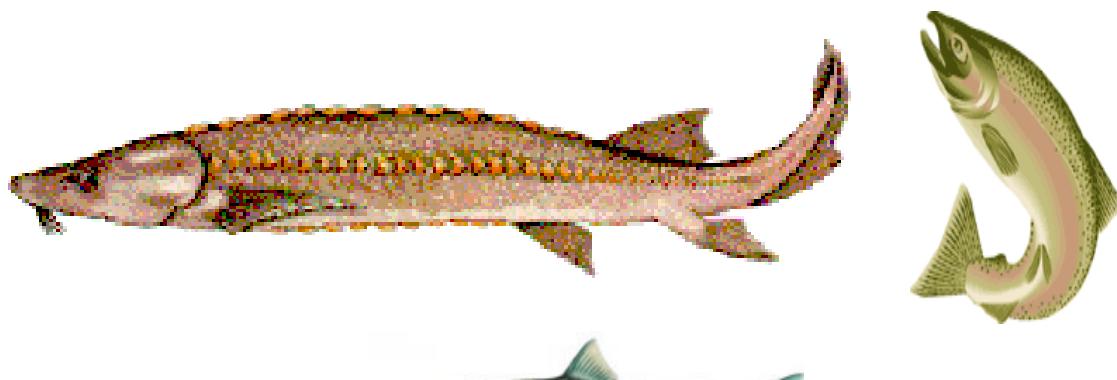
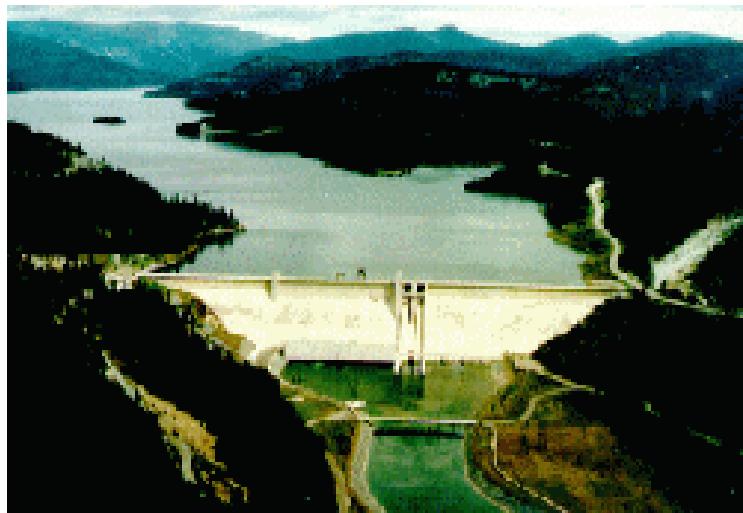


Announcements

Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations Environmental Impact Statement (UCEIS)





Purpose

This web site provides information about the Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations environmental impact statement (EIS), as well as providing announcements important to VARQ operations. This project and the evaluation of proposed actions, including the VARQ (variable discharge, or "variable Q") alternative flood control operation, and flow augmentation for listed species of fish, is designed to comply with the Biological Opinions (known as BiOps) from the [NOAA Fisheries](#) and the [USFWS](#) on operation of Federal dams and reservoirs in the Columbia River basin. See the [Project Documents](#) and [Links to Related Information](#) pages for more information.

The NOAA Fisheries and USFWS BiOps provide recommendations for operation of federal dams to prevent jeopardy to threatened and endangered fish in the Columbia basin. The EIS evaluates winter and early spring operations at Libby and Hungry Horse dams in Montana, and Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. A draft of the EIS was released in November 2005, and the final EIS was published in spring 2006.

VARQ flood control helps assure refill of Libby and Hungry Horse reservoirs, and thus helps with flow augmentation for sturgeon, bull trout, salmon and steelhead stocks listed as threatened or endangered. In addition, VARQ flood control moves some flood control releases from Libby and Hungry Horse Dams from the winter months to the spring, which aids flow augmentation.

Project Links

NEW! June 6, 2008 - Download the [RECORD OF DECISION FOR LIBBY DAM FLOOD CONTROL AND FISH OPERATIONS\(June 2008\)](#)

Download the [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#)

[News & Announcements](#)

[Project Documents](#)

[Upper Columbia Update Newsletters](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Links to Related Information Definitions](#)

LIBBY OPERATED UNDER VARQ FLOOD CONTROL IN 2007

On January 5, 2007, the Corps of Engineers' Northwestern Division Commander, Brigadier General Gregg Martin, signed a [Determination and Finding](#) for Libby Dam operation in 2007. It constitutes a decision that Libby will be operated in strict accordance with the VARQ Operating Procedures as provided in the 2002 EA, while the Corps will continue to evaluate and analyze factors associated with a long-term (2008 and beyond) operational decision. A Record of Decision is not yet available for the long-term operation.

RELEASE OF FINAL EIS

In April 2006, the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations. The Corps will account for comments received on the Final EIS in its Record of Decision.

[Link to the Final EIS here](#)

Point of Contact: Jeff Laufle Phone: 206-764-6578 Email: JEFFREY.C.LAUFLE@USACE.ARMY.MIL